

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 EA-11 AF-10 SAM-01 MMS-04

SR-02 ORM-03 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /177 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN

SUBJECT: KEY ISSUES AT UNGA

REF: STATE 199150

1. EMBASSY HAS CONDUCTED PRE-UNGA DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON BASIS STATE 184584 AND SUBSEQUENT GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: KHMER CREDENTIALS, SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, NAMIBIA, KOREA, HUMAN RIGHTS, MIDDLE EAST, UNRWA, DISARMAMENT, STEAM ROLLER TACTICS, UN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE, UN BUDGET, U.S. EVALUATION INITIATIVE, AND UN SALARY INCREASE.

2. ON BASIS STATE 192437, I TOOK UP KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE WITH FON MIN LARAKI SEPT 11. DCM DISCUSSED IT SAME DAY WITH LARAKI'S DEPUTY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHERKAOUI. OUR EFFORTS ON THIS ISSUE WERE REPORTED SEPARATELY IN RABAT 4418.

3. BULK OF WORKING-LEVEL DISCUSSION ON KEY ISSUES WAS CARRIED OUT BY POL COUNSELOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ACTING CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, ABDELLAH BENKIRANE, CONFIDENTIAL

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DURING SESSIONS SEPT 5 AND 11. (POSITION OF CHIEF OF IO AFFAIRS

AT MFA IS CURRENTLY VACANT.) POL COUNSELOR LAID PARTICULAR STRESS ON KHMER CREDENTIALS, LEAVING FRENCH-LANGUAGE AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON PERTINENT DEPTELS. HE ALSO PROVIDED BENKIRANE WITH FRENCH-LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF U.S. VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES ENUMERATED PARA 1 ABOVE.

4. BENKIRANE STATED HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE OUR VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES AND THAT THEY WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN BRIEFING RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NEW MOROCCAN PERM REP TO UN, DRISS SLAOU, WHO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES IN NEW YORK SHORTLY. BENKIRANE, WHO IS AN OLD IO HAND AND HAS ATTENDED NUMEROUS SESSIONS AT UN, PROVED TO BE WELL VERSED IN BACKGROUND OF MOST ISSUES DISCUSSED. HE LIMITED HIMSELF TO "TAKING NOTE" OF MANY OF OUR POSITIONS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. IN ADDITION TO VIEWS EXPRESSED ON KHMER CREDENTIALS (RABAT 4418) AND KOREAN ISSUE (RABAT 4421), BENKIRANE REMARKED ON FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. STEAMROLLER TACTICS. BENKIRANE AGREED SUBSTANTIALLY WITH U.S. POSITION AND SAID THAT UN PROCEEDINGS SHOULD DEFINITELY BE RENDERED MORE SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE. NEGATIVE TREND THUS FAR, HE NOTED, HAD LED TO A CERTAIN LOSS OF RESPECT FOR UN AS AN INSTITUTION. HE DIGRESSED TO ARGUE THAT IT VERY UNREALISTIC THAT GREAT POWER LIKE U.S. SHOULD CARRY SAME VOTING WEIGHT IN UNGA AS TINY, INSIGNIFICANT STATES.

B. UN SALARY INCREASE. BENKIRANE DEMONSTRATED DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ISSUE AND UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION, HAVING WORKED ON PERTINENT COMMITTEE IN NEW YORK. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH U.S. APPROACH AND FELT INSTEAD THAT RELATIVELY SUBSTANTIAL PAY, EVEN IF ABOVE COMPARABLE U.S. SCALE, WAS ESSENTIAL TO ATTRACT AND KEEP HIGH CALIBER UN PERSONNEL.

5. I ALSO HOPE SELECTIVELY TO GO OVER SIGNIFICANT UNGA ISSUES WITH PERM REP SLAOU WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR NEW YORK.
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